



# The Hal yard

A weekly newsletter for  
Virginia's  
Library Media Specialists  
August 27, 2004

## Charlie's chatter

I hope that each of you had an opportunity to participate in summer activities sponsored by your school division or the NCLB consortium. Technology integration and computer literacy will be 'hot' topics for the next few years. Don't forget your role in seeing that both students and teachers are wise consumers of information. Computer literacy is a natural partner for information literacy. Be sure to include both of these topics as you plan for student lessons and for in-services to your staff. It is important that the library is seen as a place where all of the pieces come together. Plan now to determine how you are going to be an advocate for these skills within your school's instructional program.

As I write this, Hurricane Gaston is providing me with a beautiful display of lightening and thunder. With several more hurricanes in the forecast, sailors will need to brush up on their bad-weather skills. Just as the sailor needs to be prepared for changes in weather, we must be ready for whatever weather this school year will bring to our libraries. So, batten down the hatches, lay on extra provisions, and get ready for the sail of your lifetime. Be the lifesaver for the teacher who had a sudden inspiration, be the anchor that can be counted on to always have just what was needed, and be the fresh wind that will unfurl the sails of both students and teachers. Join me as we sail to the Bay of Academic Achievement.

## Pleasure Reading

Why do YOU read? Do you read every book you pick from cover to cover? How many pages will you read before you decide if a book worth your time or effort? Why do we make children read? When was the last time you read aloud to a child? When did you first begin to want to read? These are a few of the questions posed by Colleen Macdonell in *Teacher Librarian*, April 2004. Her thought provoking article challenges the reader to think about the reading process and how we may be turning children off to books and reading because of our love of reading.



We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails.



## Collaboration 101

Collaboration between teachers and teacher-librarian is a significant factor in improved student achievement. The research identifies specific factors, which influence successful collaboration. Consider your library program in light of these factors:

The environment

Faculty/staff characteristics

Process and structure

Communication

Purpose

Resources

(*Teacher-Librarian* February 2004)

## Virginia's Virtual Advanced Placement School



This innovative virtual school provides expanded opportunity for qualified students to earn up to a full semester of college credit before graduating from high school and save as much as \$5,000 in tuition costs. Both televised and online Internet-based Advanced Placement (AP) courses are available to all qualified Virginia students. Televised Virtual Advanced Placement School courses are offered through the Virginia Satellite Education Network are tuition-free for all Virginia public school students. <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/VAPS.html>

## Helping Children of Military Personnel

The Virginia Department of Education, in collaboration with the Virginia National Guard Family Assistance Center, has developed this Web site to provide educators with easy access to resources on children of mobilized military personnel. <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/military/>

## Virginia Education eNews

Virginia Education **eNews** is a periodic electronic newsletter highlighting activities, events, and other news from the state Board of Education, the Department of Education, and school divisions across the Commonwealth.

To sign up for this service

[http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/E\\_News/newsletterform.html](http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/E_News/newsletterform.html)



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## SOL Test Scores by school s

Be sure to check out your schools score and plan to target any weak areas.

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/src/schoolSOLresults01-03.xls>

## Powerful Partners

Now is the perfect time to talk with teachers and administrators about the library's role in instruction. Go to:

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/OET/library.shtml> and download copies of the Academic Success @Your Library brochure for your administrators. Make an appointment and discuss how the library is critical in achieving academics success for all students. Give each teacher a copy of the Powerful Partners: Come to the library where Information is SOL Power. Meet with grade level teachers and plan units of study. WOW them with your willingness.



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